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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

HM-666PCT

Applicant(s)

: Rolf Brisberger, et al

Serial No.

: NOT YET KNOWN (PCT/EP04/02786)

Int. Filed

: March 18, 2004

For

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR COATING A METAL BAR

BY HOT DIPPING

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

In advance of the first office action, please amend the claims as follows: